

TESTIMONY
In Support of
SB 981 An Act Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds
Children Committee Public Hearing
March 5, 2013

As a parent, I have worked hard to protect my daughter, keep her healthy and keep her from harm. I didn't use formula because the doctors said breast milk was much better for babies. Our cars had the best protective car seats strapped into their back seats. We put electrical protectors in the wall sockets and used child-proof locks on the cabinets.

Growing up I fed her all those good leafy vegetables that most children cringe at and attempted to serve our family healthy meals. I discouraged a lot of tv watching and encouraged the activity of the month whether it was soccer, gymnastics or just riding bikes outside.

At some point I found myself saying the cliché things all our parents said to us. Some of them meaningful like "look both ways before you cross the street, and some of them just the ridiculous like, "You're going to get pneumonia if you don't button up that coat."

My point is, that I've done the best I could to raise my daughter with things that were within my control. But I have to depend on society and government to provide other protections. We have speed limits and traffic lights to keep the roads safe. We have vaccines to keep our children from getting terrible illnesses that were devastating for our parents or grandparents generations. But I see that our government has not been protecting our children when it comes to lawn pesticides.

The science is out there and has been for some time. There are compelling reasons not to allow lawn care pesticides. 19 studies have linked the 30 commonly used lawn pesticides with cancer, 13 studies have linked them with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 15 with neurotoxicity or abnormal brain development. Other studies have linked these pesticides with hyperactivity, developmental delays, behavioral disorder and motor dysfunction. All children are particularly susceptible because of their smaller bodies and rapid growth. Once the pesticides are applied, they can be tracked inside the schools (and our homes) where they can persist for long periods of time, exposing children even if they were not in contact with the grass.

Please think only of our children when you vote on this bill.

It is the only issue that is worthy of your consideration when determining whether to extend the pesticide ban to include our High School children. Our children's health is in your hands. Please do not let them down.

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